

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to pay homage to the Republic of Haiti, during this month when we celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month. The country is of great significance to all who support the free world, as they stand as the second free nation in the history of the Western Hemisphere, second only to the United States. In addition, the Haitian Revolution also produced the first black republic in the world, which is acknowledged as a sense of pride and honor to all people of color around the world.

Haiti does not only share a historical relationship with the U.S., but has been a long-time friend and ally, even supporting us with additional troops during the American Revolution. This level of sacrifice by a country should not be forgotten, especially during times of economic need and hardship.

This is why it is particularly important for us to remember, at this time, the thousands of non-criminal Haitians who currently have "final orders of removal"—or stand to be deported back to a country that is in no position to receive them. Sending 30,000 Haitians back to a country that, in past hurricane season, has been ravaged by consecutive storms is un-American and will be a missed humanitarian opportunity. As Americans, we should support our President in this humanitarian effort by offering these Haitians the opportunity to work and provide food and clothing to their families.

Persons with final orders of removal are ineligible for work authorization. This means that there are approximately 30,000 Haitians living in the U.S. who are not permitted to earn a living to take care of their families in the U.S. and abroad. As you know, remittances make up 1/4 of Haiti's GDP so this is a direct impact on the economic stability in Haiti. Just last month, the Huffington Post reported that Haiti had seen a decrease in remittances with a "dramatic dip this January falling to \$69 million from \$104 million the previous month". The World Bank, IMF, Inter-American Development Bank and money transfer offices are all predicting a thinning flow of remittance money into Haiti in the coming months. Based on these facts, it is no coincidence that we are hearing about more Coast Guard interdictions. These individuals are obviously desperate to find ways to feed their families.

Haiti also played an indirect role in helping the United States grow, as a nation. The defeat of the French Napoleon Army by the Haitians, albeit indirectly, helped America expand its territories towards the West with the Louisiana Purchase. At the time, Haiti was the producer of 40 percent of the world's sugar, was the most profitable colony the French owned and in fact the wealthiest and most flourishing of the slave colonies in the Caribbean. This was a tremendous loss to the French, and as a result, France was forced to sell off some of their land in the new world. The outcome for the U.S. was significant—the land included in the purchase, now famously known as the "Louisiana Purchase", comprises of around 23 percent of the territory of the United States today.

The historical relationship and the humanitarian concerns are important facts to consider when developing policy towards the country of Haiti.

Madam Speaker, I hope that our government will take this time, during the month when we honor our Caribbean American Heritage, to make the right decision regarding the granting of Temporary Protective Status, TPS, for these Haitian nationals.

Haiti has been a friend of ours for many years, and I hope that we exercise our friendship during this time of hardship.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2010:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Brick Township Police Athletic League (PAL), 60 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723

Description of Request: Brick PAL offers after-school and summer camp programs to keep students engaged in educational, social and cultural programs in the critical hours while parents are at work. The amount of \$250,000 listed in H.R. 2847 will be used for hiring counselors, equipment, educational trips, scholarships and general operations of the programs.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: D.A.R.E. New Jersey, Inc., 292 Prospect Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512

Description of Request: D.A.R.E. New Jersey will use the \$350,000 listed in H.R. 2847 to implement the Middle School Drug and Safety Prevention Program, "Keepin' It Real" which focuses on teaching middle school students how to resist peer pressure, avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence and live productive, meaningful lives. The funding will be used for officer training, workbooks, teachers books and materials, evaluation of the program, personnel, and general expenses such as printing, postage and travel associated with the training.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Monmouth University, 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Description of Request: The University's Resilient Coastal Urban Community and Eco-

system (RESCUE) Initiative will use the amount of \$250,000 listed in H.R. 2847 to maintain and expand the water quality monitoring system, work directly with communities to implement cost-effective strategies for reducing pollution, restoring and protecting critical habitats that support resilient coastal ecosystems and communities and support the development of community strategies to adapt to coastal threats.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: KidsBridge, 4556 S Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ 08620

Description of Request: The KidsBridge program allows students the opportunity to participate in leadership training, violence prevention and gang resistance programs during and after school. Through mentors and academic programs, students will learn improved behaviors thereby reducing violent encounters and victimization. The amount of \$90,000 listed in H.R. 2847 will be used to facilitate weekly youth meetings, materials and workbooks, evaluation, cultural and educational trips, healthy snacks for the students and staff salary.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Trenton, 319 E State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Description of Request: The YouthStat program is a key component of the City of Trenton's ongoing efforts to develop and implement aggressive new strategies to effectively respond to the problems of gang violence in Trenton, New Jersey. The amount of \$310,000 listed in H.R. 2847 will provide participants with customized community based programming including mentoring, work experience, life skills development, and recreation for juveniles who are at the highest risk for gang and criminal involvement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: OJP-Byrne

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama District Attorneys Association
Address of Requesting Entity: 515 South Perry Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$900,000 for the Alabama Computer Forensics Laboratories (Personnel \$575,000; Benefits \$150,000; Travel \$20,000; Equipment \$50,000; Supplies \$35,000; Other \$70,000). Matching funds of \$150,000 will be provided by the state and local sources. This appropriation request is for a continuation of the computer forensic lab program which created 3 regional computer labs to cover the entire state